

Government Oversight Committee, October 30, 2006

Department of Human Services

Presentation regarding the process for transfer of juveniles from county detention centers to State training schools (STSS) at Toledo and Eldora.

**Criteria for admittance into state training school:**

Court orders transfer of guardianship of a child to the Director of the Department of Human Services provided that the child is at least twelve years of age and the court finds the placement to be in the best interests of the child or necessary for the protection of the public, and that the child has been found to have committed an act which is a forcible felony, as defined in section 702.11, or a felony violation of section 124.401 or chapter 707, or the court finds any three of the following conditions exist:

- (1) The child is at least fifteen years of age and the court finds the placement to be in the best interests of the child or necessary to the protection of the public.
- (2) The child has committed an act which is a crime against a person and which would be an aggravated misdemeanor or a felony if the act were committed by an adult.
- (3) The child has previously been found to have committed a delinquent act.
- (4) The child has previously been placed in a treatment facility outside the child's home or in a supervised community treatment program established pursuant to section 232.191, subsection 4, as a result of a prior delinquency adjudication.

**Clarifications:**

1. With regard to regular commitments each judicial district has a cap.
  - No waiting list presently (there has not been one in recent times). As long as the student meets criteria and has been properly adjudicated the student can be admitted to STS.
- 2 The State Training School, Eldora, does about 120 Court Ordered Evaluations/year.
  - Evaluations are done on a first-come-first-serve basis after the court assigns a child.
  - STS works to expedite evaluations for high profile/priority students

### Process :

The Juvenile Court Officer serves as the facilitator of the court order:

- Calls the STS Receiving Cottage Director when a student is ordered to STS.
- Gives the STS the date of transporting the student to STS.
- Sends the STS a referral packet and the committing court order.

Regarding Juvenile Detention Center transfers to STS

- Transfers are up to the court and JCO.
- The courts order transportation to STS.

STS works closely with the JCOs and Chief JCOs; STS is unaware of any difficulties.

At the Iowa Juvenile Home/ State Training School for Girls in Toledo the admission process for female delinquents is very similar to that of the STS for Boys in Eldora. The Iowa Juvenile Home in Toledo also admits female and male Children in Need of Assistance (CINA).

- Toledo also works closely with the JCOs and DHS workers that refer youth.
- No waiting list recently (depending on bed usage by a district at times there might be a wait)
- Each district has what they call a "gatekeeper" who controls the beds and makes final decisions on who gets admitted.

STS for Girls at Toledo offers 1 evaluation bed per district (total of 8 beds at any one time) over and above the population limits listed below.

DISTRICTS <i>JUDICIAL</i>	STS for Boys, Eldora BEDS (Total)	IJH/ STS for Girls, Toledo BEDS (Total)	Subtotal – Males are CINA only. IJH, Toledo	Subtotal – Females are CINA and Delinquent. IJH/ STS for Girls, Toledo
#1 Waterloo	24	10	2	8
#2 Mason City	24	13	3	10
#3 Sioux City	21	9	2	7
#4 Council Bluffs	14	6	1	5
#5 Des Moines	43	16	4	12
#6 Cedar Rapids	19	11	2	9
#7 Davenport	24	10	3	7
#8 Burlington	20	9	3	6
TOTALS	189	84	20	64